

Walker (M.A.)

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Pseudo-Hermaphroditism.

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## A CASE OF PSEUDO-HERMAPHRODITISM.\*

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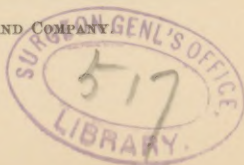
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GEORGE S., twenty-four years old, born of a good family in Vienna. He has one sister and two brothers, all of whom are well formed and have perfect children. When a child he was not treated well by his father, probably on account of his deformity. As a result of this treatment, he left his home about ten years ago and came to this country, where he has resided ever since. Before emigrating he had served his time as a cabinet-maker, and has worked at his trade the greater part of the time since, until about a year ago, when the general business depression prevented him from obtaining work. He has always been in good health.

He is five feet three inches tall, and his usual weight is between one hundred and fifty-five and one hundred and sixty-five pounds. Though stoutly built, the general form is rather that of a masculine woman, excepting the face, which is more that of a male, and thinly covered with a growth of downy hair, sufficient to necessitate shaving at intervals of from ten days to

\* Remarks made on showing the subject before the Colorado State Medical Society, June 20, 1894.

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two weeks, in order not to show the nature of the growth. The shoulders are broad as compared with the height, measuring fourteen inches and a half between the acromial tips. The shoulders, arms, and forearms, though covered with a moderate amount of adipose, are muscular. The grip is strong, and he says that he can lift more than can most men. The axillæ are hairless.

The thorax, under the arms, measures in the quiescent state thirty-five inches; during forced expiration, thirty-three inches and a half; and during forced inspiration, thirty-six inches and a half, giving a chest expansion of three inches. In the usual position over the pectorals are well-developed and somewhat pendulous breasts, with erectile nipples and distinct areolæ. On several occasions, during either the menstrual epoch or sexual excitement, when the breasts and nipples become more firm, a slight amount of watery fluid has exuded from the nipples, but never any milk. The breasts were first noticed by him to become prominent when he was about fifteen years old, and since then they have been gradually increasing in size, especially in the last few months, during which time the growth has been so rapid that he contemplates having them removed. He says he can not do outside carpenter work on account of the necessity of keeping the breasts well covered from sight, and so suffering from the heat. Respiration is of the male type, abdominal and inferior costal.

The lower parts of the trunk and the thighs resemble those of a female—prominent buttocks and apparently adducted thighs—though the muscles are well developed, as are those of the entire body. The circumference at the umbilicus is thirty-one inches, and about the hips thirty-six inches and a half. The distance between the iliac crests is ten inches and a half; between the anterior superior iliac spines, nine inches.

Over the pubes there is a well-marked mons Veneris, with a deposit of fat, and covered with rather short, brown hair. Below this, in the middle line, is seen the glans of the sexual organ, with a diameter of about three eighths or half an inch. and where the meatus of the male usually exists is a slight im-



perforate depression. The corpora cavernosa are about an inch long from the glans to the pubes, covered by a very lax prepuce which is a little darker in color than the skin elsewhere, and extends slightly below the corona glandis.

On either side of the sexual organ may be seen and felt the sexual gland, covered by one half of a divided scrotum or a labium majus. These testicular sacs are hairless. The glands in every respect resemble testes, the epididymis of each lying posteriorly and to the outer side. The testes are about an inch and a half long, the right being slightly larger, and placed a little lower than the left. Their inclosing sacs are not at all pendulous. Lying between the two semi-scroti or labia majora are two red, irregularly-shaped muco-cutaneous folds continuous anteriorly with the posterior border of the prepuce. These folds lie parallel and close together, extending backward nearly to the plane of the posterior ends of the testes, where there is inclosed and hidden between them the urethral opening, having a diameter of six or seven millimetres.

About half an inch behind the meatus is situated a depression corresponding in position and appearance to the introitus vaginæ. This depression is about three eighths of an inch wide at its center, an inch long and from one fourth to three eighths of an inch deep, its bottom covered by a muco-cutaneous diaphragm. Surrounding this depression are traces of labia minora. Laterally, on either side, from about opposite the middle of the vaginal depression forward to and continuous with the posterior end of the testicular sac, is a fatty elevation about three fourths of an inch long, one fourth to three eighths of an inch wide, and about one fourth of an inch high—the remains of the labium majus. Between the urethra and the vaginal depression the skin may be invaginated by the finger to the depth of an inch and a half or an inch and three quarters, showing at least the possibility of the existence of a vaginal canal.

Between the posterior end of the vaginal depression and the anus there is a slight elevation of the perineal raphæ. Urethral examination was not permitted.

By digital rectal examination, the rectal pouch was found to extend well forward immediately above the sphincters. In the usual position of the prostate anterior to the rectum could be felt a structure seemingly nearly spherical and having a diameter of one half or three quarters of an inch. Bimanual rectal examination failed to show anything corresponding to a uterus or appendages.

In this man sexual desire is present, the desires being always those of a male. During sexual excitement the sexual organ attains a length of two inches and a half or three inches, the remains of the labia majora become slightly turgid and swollen, the nipples erect, and the breasts increased in firmness. Emissions following lascivious dreams or other causes are quite frequent—at least three or four times a month—and the fluid emitted is viscid and colorless. Sometimes, when from the sensation of the orgasm he would expect an emission, the man states that there is none at all and at other times “as much as a tumblerful.” He has occasionally had intercourse with females in a peculiar manner, but does not often do so, on account of shame at his deformity.

With regard to menstruation, he remembers that when a small boy he was subject to apparently causeless attacks of epistaxis. At about sixteen or seventeen years of age he first noticed their greater or less regularity.

Now his epistaxis occurs with as great regularity as the menstruation of many women—usually every four weeks, but occasionally extending to an interval of five or even six weeks. Bleeding is sometimes profuse, lasting for one or even two hours, and occurring two or three times a day for about two days. At this time the breasts become firmer, he has slight headache and malaise, and an ill-defined feeling of tenderness in the loins and lateral pelvic regions. However, he says he does not feel sufficiently ill to deter him from work when he has work. On several different occasions at this period there has been slight hæmorrhage from the urethra. These attacks have been infrequent, occurred independently of micturition, and were unaccompanied by any symptoms of cystitis, nephritis, or any morbid cause. Between the menstrual times he is free

from epistaxis until the next regular monthly period. During the periods the voice is several tones higher in pitch than at other times.

Without discussing hermaphroditism, I will say that cases of true complete hermaphroditism recorded are about as rare as the frequently-mentioned hen's teeth. In this case the non-fusion of the genital folds has resulted in a perineal opening of the urethra and the presence of the muco-cutaneous folds resembling labia minora between the scrotal sacs. Ordinarily the fusion of these folds and their subsequent covering in by the fusion of the genital ridges completes the penile urethra and scrotum. The genital ridges, instead of going on to fusion in front of the perfect urethra and forming a normal scrotum with its median rhapshe, have fused on either side of the median line, thus forming two distinct sacs, and into each of these sacs has descended its corresponding testicle. I believe that some sort of a vaginal canal exists in this person, and I am supported in this belief by the ability to invaginate with the finger the post-urethral region and by the evident accumulation of a large amount of fluid, discharged at the time of expected emission. It is a quite common occurrence that in these more or less mixed cases there is a vagina the only external opening of which is through the meatus urinarius.

That this person has well developed breasts, vicarious menstruation, with change of voice, and no beard, is no evidence of the possession of ovaries, because, as we have all observed without being able to explain, when either from congenital defect or operative procedure a person comes to more or less resemble the opposite or is deprived of his or her own sex, the bodily conformation and bodily and mental habits of the opposite sex, to a greater or less degree,

according to age, are ingrafted upon or replace those of the former or natural state.

It is my opinion that the case which I have described is one of arrested development or hypospadias, and the person beyond question a male, who may have more or less rudimentary ovaries, uterus, and vagina.

634 FOURTEENTH STREET.







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*A WEEKLY REVIEW OF MEDICINE.*

EDITED BY

FRANK P. FOSTER, M.D.

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